

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

**Claims 1-4, 6, 8-18, 22, and 23** are pending.

**Claims 19-21** are canceled herein.

**Claims 5 and 7** were previously canceled.

**Claims 1, 2, 4, and 22** are amended.

**Claim 23** is newly added.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, comprising:

a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, and having a breast portion on the front portion;

a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric; and

a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric,

wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration, ~~and~~

wherein the first protective panel is adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface,

wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel, and

wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The garment of claim 4 ~~claim 1~~, wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel, and wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion.

3. **(Original)** The garment of claim 1, further comprising a collar portion.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, comprising:

a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, and having a breast portion on the front portion;

a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric; and

a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric,

wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration, and

wherein the first protective panel is adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface,

the garment ~~The garment of claim 1~~, further comprising a pair of sleeves attached to the base fabric for receiving the person's arms, and a protective panel attached to a forearm portion of each sleeve.

5. **(Canceled).**

6. **(Previously Presented)** The garment of claim 1, further comprising at least one of pockets and loops on the front portion of the base fabric.
7. **(Canceled).**
8. **(Original)** The garment of claim 1, further comprising attachable and detachable structural members adapted to secure the bottom of the garment to a safety belt.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The garment of claim 8, wherein the attachable and detachable structural members are selected from the group consisting of loops, buttons, snaps, hooks, and loop fasteners.
10. **(Original)** The garment of claim 1, wherein the base fabric is formed into any one of a coat, jacket, shirt, and vest.
11. **(Original)** The garment of claim 1, wherein the protective panel comprises at least one ply of a fabric formed of aramid fibers.
12. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the aramid fibers are selected from the group consisting of Kevlar® fiber, Twaron® fiber, Spectra® fiber, and Zylon® fiber.
13. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber of 200 denier mesh.

14. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a weight of 3.9 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>.

15. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a warp count of 70 yarns/inch.

16. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a fill count of 70 yarns/inch.

17. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a thickness from 6 to 8 mils.

18. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a breaking strength of 385 lbf/inch.

19-21. **(Canceled)**.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, comprising:

a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, and having a breast portion on the front portion;

a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric; and

a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric;

~~The garment of claim 1, further comprising:~~

a collar portion formed around the opening for the head;

a pair of sleeves attached to the base fabric for receiving the person's arms;

a protective panel attached to a forearm portion of each sleeve;

at least one of pockets and loops attached to the front portion of the base fabric;

attachable and detachable structural members adapted to secure the bottom of the garment to a safety belt;

wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel,

wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion,

wherein the protective panel comprises at least one ply of a fabric formed of aramid fiber,

wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration, and

wherein the first protective panel is adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface.

23. (New) The garment of claim 1, wherein the protective panels comprise Zylon® fiber.